

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00
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R 281250Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4265
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 0425

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, GY
SUBJECT: DESCRIPTION OF CONSTRUCTION SITES AT DORA AND AT MACKENZIE

REF: (A) GEORGETOWN 0205, (B) 76 GEORGETOWN 2471

SUMMARY: THIS CABLE, BASED UPON DIRECT OBSERVATION BY
EMBOFF, CORRECTS IMPRESSION PROVIDED BY SOURCES REFTELS THAT
AIRFIELDS ARE UNDER CONSTRUCTION NEAR MACKENZIEREND DORA.
THE MACKENZIE SITE IS AN EXTENSION OF A HOUSING PROJECT.
THE DORA SITE APPEARS TO BE A GUYANA MILITARY SITE, BUT NOT
AN AIRFIELD. END SUMMARY.

1. ON FEBRUARY 21, EMBASSY OFFICER VIEWED THE AREAS AT DORA
AND AT MACKENZIE FROM A LIGHT AIRCRAFT OVERHEAD. REF A
REPORTED THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW AIRPORT AND MILITARY BASE
AT DORA AND THE STOCKPILING OF LARGE SIZE WOODEN CRATES
AT MACKENZIE. THE FOLLOWING IS THE OFFICER'S OBSERVATION
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REPORT, WHICH PARTLY RESOLVES THE SPECULATION AND MIS-
INFORMATION REPORTED REF A.

2. AN AREA NEAR MACKENZIE (APPROXIMATELY TWO MILES WEST
OF THE DEMERARA RIVER, ON THE SOUTHERN EDGE OF THE MAC-
KENZIE/ROCKSTONE HIGHWAY) AS BEEN CLEARED AND APPEARS
AT FIRST TO BE THE INITIAL GROUNDWORK FOR THE CONSTRUCTION

OF AN AIRFIELD. HOWEVER, AFTER STUDYING THE GROUNDWORK AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO ITS ENVIRONS, IT IS APPARENT THAT THIS NEW CONSTRUCTION IS THE FIRST STAGE OF A HOUSING AREA. WHAT APPEARS TO BE A RUNWAY AND TAXIWAYS IS THE SUB-DIVISION OF THE AREA BY STREETS. EMBOFF IS CONVINCED THAT THIS CONSTRUCTION IS NOTHING MORE THAN THE EXPANSION OF A HOUSING SCHEME WHICH IS LOCATED VERY CLOSE TO THIS NEW CONSTRUCTION. IN FACT, WHAT WAS REPORTED AS AN EAST-WEST ALIGNED RUNWAY, MATCHES THE LAYOUT OF THE MAJOR ROAD IN THE ADJACENT HOUSING SCHEME AND APPEARS TO BE A CONTINUATION OF THAT ROAD. (NOTE: THE CIVILIAN AIRFIELD NOW AT MACKENZIE, LOCATED FIVE MILES SOUTHEAST OF THIS CONSTRUCTION, IS APPROX. 5,500 FEET AND IS A HARD SURFACED RUNWAY.)

3. AN AREA NEAR DORA, WHICH IS LOCATED BETWEEN THE LINDEN-GEORGETOWN HIGHWAY AND THE DEMERARA RIVER, HAS BEEN CLEARED AND BUILDINGS HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTED THERE. THE CLEARED AREA IS IRREGULARLY SHAPED AND IS APPROXIMATELY 900 FEET BY 800 FEET AT ITS EXTREMES. THERE ARE SIX BUILDINGS CONSTRUCTED ON THE SITE. FIVE OF THE BUILDINGS ARE RECTANGULAR, ABOUT 150 FEET BY 40 FEET, AND ARE DISPERSED WITHIN THE CLEARED AREA. IN THE APPROXIMATE CENTER OF THE CLEARING, THERE IS ONE LARGE BUILDING WHICH IS SHAPED LIKE A HORSE-SHOE WITH A THIRD LEG IN THE CENTER. EACH OF THE THREE "WINGS" ARE CONNECTED TO THE BASE. THIS BUILDING IS APPROXIMATELY 200 FEET BY 200 FEET OVERALL, WITH EACH WING BEING 150 FEET BY 40 FEET. TWO OTHER SMALLER CLEARINGS WERE OBSERVED CLOSE TO THE DEMERARA RIVER IN THE SAME GENERAL AREA AS THE INSTALLATION DESCRIBED ABOVE. AT

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EACH OF THESE TWO LOCATIONS THERE IS A SMALL BUILDING.

4. THIS NEW CONSTRUCTION AT DORA APPEARS TO BE RELATED TO THE ACTIVITIES OF THE GUYANESE MILITARY. THERE IS NO SIGN, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS TO BE USED AS AN AIR BASE OR AIRPORT.
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